

Minutes
Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee Meeting
March 19, 2014

Members Present

Senator Ralph Hise
Senator Shirley Randleman
Senator Jeff Tarte, Advisory Member

Representative Julia Howard, Chair
Representative Becky Carney
Representative Bryan Holloway
Representative Pat Hurley
Representative Marvin Lucas
Representative Tim Moffitt
Representative Edgar Starnes
Representative Justin Burr, Advisory

Call to Order

Representative Julia Howard, Chair, called the meeting to order.

The Chair requested a moment of silence for the untimely death of Senator Martin Nesbitt.

Senator Hise moved to approve the February 19, 2014 *Minutes*. Motion carried.

Presentations and Appearances

Representative Howard recognized Kiernan McGorty, Principal Program Evaluator to give the report, ***Department of State Treasurer Should Strengthen the Oversight of the Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund.***

Tim Bradley, Executive Director, NC State Firemen's Association stated that the pension fund is a valuable recruiting tool in retaining personnel for 20 years.

Gordon Joyner, Executive Director, NC Association of Rescue and EMS Services, said that the pension fund is an incentive to retain highly trained individuals.

Representative Starnes moved to accept the report and continue working with the subcommittee on Fire and Rescue Financial Assistance. Motion carried.

Representative Howard recognized Beth Wood, State Auditor, for remarks on the Information Technology Audit Overview. The overview included issues/findings from several audits including:

- Department of Health and Human Services/NCTracks Implementation
- Office of Information Technology Services-IT Project Budget and Schedule Variances
- UNC-General Administration Banner Hosting Services
- Office of the Information Technology Services – Information Technology General Controls
- Department of Health and Human Services/Replacement MMIS Implementation
- E-Commerce Project Office and Statewide Portals Contract

Representative Howard requested a list of suggestions for legislation to correct the problems identified by the Auditor's report series. Committee Counsel Hal Pell noted that the "revolving door legislation" requested during a previous committee meeting should be ready soon.

Representative Howard recognized John Turcotte, Director, Program Evaluation Division to present the PED report *Performance Measurement and Monitoring Would Strengthen Accountability of North Carolina's Driver Education Program*.

Reggie Flythe, DPI Driver Education Coordinator, reviewed the DPI written response to the PED report. In addition, he formally transmitted to the committee *DPI Report to the North Carolina General Assembly: DPI/DMV Knowledge Testing Review* (March 1, 2014) as required by S.L. 2013-360, Section 34.20.b. The report noted that currently students must pass a school-administered final exam to successfully complete driver education and then pass the DMV knowledge and sign identification test at the DMV location in order to receive a learner permit. DPI and DMV are working to assure that the driver education curriculum and classroom learning experience driver education curriculum are congruent with the DMV knowledge and sign identification test. As a result, in the future students will have to pass only the DMV test as a final exam, which will be administered by DMV at each school.

Kelly Thomas, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles made brief comments acknowledging the report findings and that his office was coordinating with DPI to make improvements.

Tracy Weeks, DPI Chief Academic Learning Officer and former Director of DPI Virtual Public School reported that Virtual School served only a limited role during the pilot project criticized by PED. Virtual School served only as a pass through to the two online vendors of the \$20 available per student participating in the pilot test of online versus traditional instruction of driver education.

The committee deferred action on the report and requested John Turcotte to present the report recommendations April 16.

Chairman Howard recognized Emily Johnson, Drafting Division to summarize the draft of a bill – *UNC Operational Efficiency/PED Recommendation*. The committee deferred action and requested another presentation on the proposed draft April 16th.

Representative Howard announced that the committee will meet twice in April, April 16 and April 23.

Adjournment

With no further business, the committee adjourned.



Senate Chair, Senator Fletcher Hartsell



House Chair, Representative Julia Howard